



SHILAP Revista de Lepidopterología

ISSN: 0300-5267

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Sociedad Hispano-Luso-Americana de
Lepidopterología
España

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SHILAP Revista de Lepidopterología, vol. 35, núm. 138, junio, 2007, pp. 265-268

Sociedad Hispano-Luso-Americana de Lepidopterología

Madrid, España

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New species of *Cooksonia* Druce, 1905 from Angola (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae, Lipteninae)

L. F. Mendes & A. Bivar de Sousa

Abstract

Genus *Cooksonia* is assigned by the first time to Angola upon a new species described and figured from the Huambo Province.

KEY WORDS: Lepidoptera, Lycaenidae, *Cooksonia*, new species; Angola.

Nueva especie de *Cooksonia* Druce, 1905 de Angola (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae, Lipteninae)

Resumen

El género *Cooksonia* se cita por primera vez en Angola, sobre una nueva especie que se describe e ilustra de la provincia de Huambo.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Lepidoptera, Lycaenidae, *Cooksonia*, especie nueva, Angola.

Nova espécie de *Cooksonia* Druce, 1905 de Angola (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae, Lipteninae)

Resumo

O género *Cooksonia* é assinalado pela primeira vez em Angola, sobre uma espécie nova que se descreve e ilustra, da província do Huambo.

PALAVRAS CHAVE: Lepidoptera, Lycaenidae, *Cooksonia*, espécie nova, Angola.

Introduction

Genus *Cooksonia* Druce, 1905, exclusive from the Afrotropical Region, is known (STEMPFER, 1967, DICKSON & KROON, 1978, D'ABRERA, 1980, ACKERY *et al.*, 1995) by three species only (Fig. 1):

C. aliciae Talbot, 1935, monotypical, flies in the Malawi; it was described from near Fort Johnston, now Mangochi, in the southern border of the Nyassa Lake and remains known from there only.

C. neavei (DRUCE, 1912) is known by two subspecies: nominate one, inhabits the Madibira area in the south-western Tanzania (also KIELLAND, 1990), isolated by the Kipemgere range from the north-eastern shore of the Nyassa Lake; *C. neavei rhodesiae* Pinhey, 1962 flies in eastern Zimbabwe, close to the Mozambique border: reported from southern Rhodesia, it was collected in the triangle Marondera-Mutare-Harare (registered under their old names as Marandellas, Umtali and Salisbury); and *C. trimeni* Druce, 1912, with one (or two ?) subspecies occurs probably in the former Zaire (now the Congo Democratic Republic) southern area only (Shaba Province, ancient Katanga); its reference to

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the “north-western Rhodesia” was, indeed, considered as erroneously by its sample own collector (COOKSON, 1954).

Known *Cooksonia* caterpillars feed on lichens.

Among the material integrating the entomological collection held by the late Eng.º Armando Nozolino de Azevedo (in the text, NA) in the Nova Lisboa – now Huambo – area (Huambo province, 12° 46' S; 15° 44' E; 1650 m), in the Central Angolan plateau, we found one only female of a new species of this genus, that is described afterwards; geographically, Angolan sample was obtained ca. 2000 Km straight from those concerning the Tanzania and Zimbabwe species, and ca. 1000 Km off the Shaba area. The genus is reported by the first time to Angola. The holotype and only known specimen is stored in the entomological collection of the Instituto de Investigação Científica Tropical, in Lisboa (in the text, CZ).

Systematic

Cooksonia nozolinoi Mendes & Bivar de Sousa, sp. n. (Figs. 2, 3)

Holotype ♀: Huambo Province: Nova Lisboa, 12/9/1975, (NA, no number) (CZ-5265)

Description: Forewing length: 26.8 mm; wingspan: 59 mm. Wings dorsally orange-yellow, the marginal areas and the discal dot blackish brown, the ventral surface more ochreous; subapical (forewing) and submarginal (hind-wing) ventral markings greyish-ochre, delimited by dark brown scales.

Upper side: Forewing: Marginal band uniformly dark, devoid of whitish areas, attaining ca. 1/3 of the coastal margin. Costa and ca. half of the basal inner margin (space 1b) also blackish brown. Cell dot large, from the cell apex to the base of the median spaces, distally notched. Irregular small groups of dark scales occur, further, on the area above the cell and in middle area of the cell. Hindwing: Marginal band blackish, uniformly wide (ca. 3 mm) with small and not very conspicuous orange markings on spaces 1b, 2 and 3. Cell apex dot much longer than wide and smaller than that of the forewing. Reduced group of dark scales irregularly shaped at the basal area and a minute blackish dot in the middle of the cell.

Under side: Forewing: Apical-marginal band ochre and greyish, the nerves dark brown, its inner limit (correspondent to the dorsal dark area) as an irregular dark line of dots; dot of the apex of the cell almost as big as dorsally though triangular. Hindwing: Dark dots restricted to the basal, sub-basal and discal areas. Sub-marginal semi-lunar greyish dots delimited by dark lines, the outer one almost black; semi-lunar marginal dots smaller, ochre-orange, as the wing ground-colour.

Male unknown.

Etymology: New species is dedicated to the memory of the collector of its only known specimen, Eng.º Armando Nozolino de Azevedo.

Discussion: *C. nozolinoi* Mendes & Bivar de Sousa, sp. n. (female), with opaque, uniformly blackish apical area at the forewing dorsal surface (light markings absent), seems to approach especially *C. neavei*; however, in the new species the dark dot of the forewing (dorsal and ventral cell apex) is completely isolated from the costal area, the hindwing marginal area is narrower and shows small light punctuations and the hindwing irregular blackish spots of the ventral surface are less numerous and not so extended as in the East African species (they completely lack on the post-discal area). The uniform apical area of the dorsal forewing allows its immediate diagnosis relatively to the two remaining known species (*C. trimeni* and *C. aliciae*) in which this area shows a conspicuous marking of whitish scales. The very thin and uniform marginal band of *C. trimeni* hindwing, the closest species under the geographical point of view is, further, completely distinct from the condition in the new species. Ventral surface in *C. aliciae* is also different, mainly in what the whitish markings of the forewing and the black dots of the hindwing are concerned.

Acknowledgements

We are deeply obliged to Mrs. Maria da Graça Nozolino de Azevedo, widow of Eng.º Armando

NEW SPECIES OF *COOKSONIA* DRUCE, 1905 FROM ANGOLA

Nozolino de Azevedo, by her permission to study the butterflies' collection he obtained in Angola and by the offered holotype of the new species of *Cooksonia*, stored in the CZ.

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(Recibido para publicación / Received for publication 4-II-2007)
(Revisado y aceptado / Revised and accepted 7-III-2007)

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